



southern view of the treatment building



banners above the treatment system equipment



glass block wall inside the treatment building

Hours

The WATER Center's outdoor features are open every day from dawn to dusk. Tours of the treatment building and educational programs are available by arrangement.

Cost

There is no cost to visit the WATER Center. In order to cover expenses, reservations and a minimal fee may be required for some programs, events and workshops. Donations are graciously accepted.

Reservations

For planning purposes, all school groups and groups of more than twenty need to call ahead. Groups may also request a tour of the treatment building or a customized program by scheduling in advance. Audiences with special needs should make reservations three weeks in advance.



WATER Center

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Wichita, KS 67217
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For more information contact:
Environmental Health
1900 East Ninth
Wichita, Kansas 67214

the **WATER** *Center*



Gilbert & Mosley Project



Gilbert and Mosley Project

Decades of industrial and commercial activities played a major role in the groundwater contamination under downtown Wichita. Discovered in the late 1980's, the impacted site was dubbed the Gilbert and Mosley Project. Faced with complex public health and economic crises, the City of Wichita took the lead in investigating and cleaning up the 3850-acre site. The resulting groundwater treatment system is the WATER Center located at Herman Hill Park.

Project Overview

The Gilbert and Mosley Project, administered by the City of Wichita, includes the investigation and remediation of contaminated groundwater in the central urban area of Wichita, Kansas. This groundwater has been contaminated with chlorinated solvents as a result of historical industrial activities. A groundwater remediation system consisting of 5.5 miles of conveyance piping, thirteen extraction wells, and a hydraulic-venturi air stripper treatment system is operating to limit the spread of the polluted groundwater and to remove the contamination.

Treatment Center

The treatment center for the Gilbert-Mosley Project houses the equipment, a hydraulic-venturi air stripper treatment system, needed to clean the polluted groundwater, and is designed to encourage public interest and observation on how groundwater is remediated.

Education Features

Another opportunity for visitors is the environmental education building that houses a classroom, an aquarium, and exhibits focused on the Gilbert-Mosley project, pollution, and the unique and life-supporting qualities of water. The

aquarium is home to native species such as minnows and offers information on why these small creatures are so dependent on water quality. In addition, the relationships between the geology and geography of the area, groundwater and surface waters are also explored.

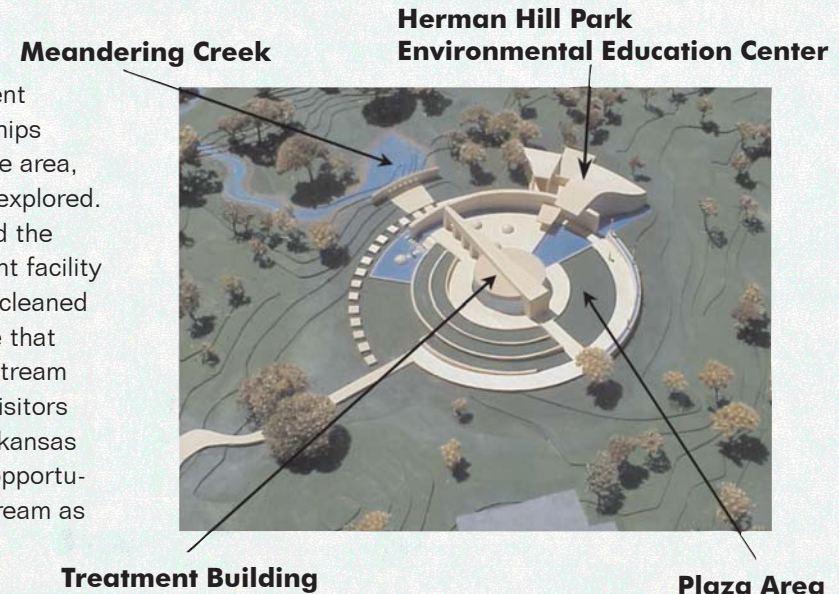
From the education center, visitors and the water move away from the water treatment facility towards the natural, flowing stream. The cleaned water supports all kinds of aquatic wildlife that can be viewed through "windows" in the stream wall. A series of paths and bridges lead visitors along the stream and eventually to the Arkansas River. The paths provide visitors viewing opportunities for other wildlife attracted to the stream as well as demonstrative exhibits on buffer strips and non-point source pollution.

Visitors will walk away with an understanding of water and groundwater, water pollution and its prevention and cleanup process.



Herman Hill Park

Bordered to the south by the Arkansas River, this thirty-three-acre park boasts rolling sand hills and mature trees. Amenities include an eighteen-hole disc golf course, playground equipment and river access. Picnic and restroom facilities are located on west side of the park. Skateboards are not allowed. The park is open every day from dawn until dusk.



Educational Opportunities

Self-guided opportunities exist along the meandering creek and at the outdoor aquarium where educational signs inform visitors about fishing and water-related issues. Fountains, sculpture, and poetry surround the WATER Center plaza. Other opportunities include:

- Field Trips
- Treatment Building Tours
- Discovery Boxes
- Adult Workshops
- Scout Programs

Exhibit Hall

In the future, the WATER Center will house a unique exhibit on the journey of water. Thirteen exhibits will take visitors from the chemistry of water to real-time monitoring of the Arkansas River. Visitors will view native fish in the 1,400-gallon aquarium. Please contact the WATER Center for sponsorship and donation information.